Hundred days progress

3482. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the 100 Days Programme of his Ministry;

(b) what other programmes will be taken up after 100 days period; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure full utilization of current year's Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Hon'ble President of India in her address to the Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009 mentioned increasing transparency and public accountability of national Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) by enforcing social audit and ensuring grievance redressel by setting up district level ombudsman, as one of the measures for which the Government will initiate steps within the next 100 days.

(b) The President's Speech has not specifically mentioned programmes beyond 100 days for the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) The Ministry has put in place a comprehensive system of monitoring of its programmes to achieve the programme objectives and to ensure full utilization of funds. The Monitoring tools are District-wise Data Management, Periodical Progress Reports/Returns, Area Officers Schemes, Utilisation Certificate/Audit Reports, review by Union Ministers, Performance Review Committee (PRC), National Level Monitors (NLM) and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (V&MCs) at State and District Level. The Ministry has adopted five pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes (ii) people's partnership, (iii) transparency, (iv) accountability and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring of rural development programmes to ensure maximum utilization of current year's budget.

Payment of NREGS wages in naxal affected regions

3483. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of banks or post offices in several naxal-affected areas, people are unable to get their wages paid under NREGS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering any other alternative so that workers could get their pending wages;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government is also considering to increase wages paid under NREGS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) State Government of Chhattisgarh made a reference to the Ministry in this regard. The Ministry examined the matter and a temporary relaxation has been given for making wage payment to NREGA workers through Banks/Post offices in respect of Katakalyan, Kuakunda and Orcha blocks of districts of Dantewada and Bastar of Chhattisgarh keeping in view severe naxalite problem and outreach of Banks and Post Offices in this area.

(c) and (d) In case the State Governments face insurmountable difficulties in making wage payment to NREGA workers through Banks/Post offices and brings it to the notice of the Ministry, the Central Government may permit it to make wage payment in cash so that there is no hindrance in fulfillment of the objectives of the Act.

(e) The matter is under consideration of this Ministry.

Coverage of TSC in the country

3484. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC);

(b) how many villages have earned Nirmal Gram Puraskar for being free of open defecation;

(c) the roadmap for achievement of the dream of total sanitation in rural India by 2012; and

(d) the achievements made as regards total sanitation in the country during 2008, the International Year of Sanitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) Under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) district is considered as a unit for the purpose of sanctioning projects. As present 593 districts have already been covered with projects under TSC. All the Gram Panchayats of the districts are supposed to have been covered under the project.

(b) Till the year 2008, 18019 Gram Panchayats have been awarded Nirmal Gram Puraskar for being free of open defecation.

(c) Upscaling of the TSC has been taken up with the following initiatives to achieve total sanitation in rural India by 2012:—

- Launching of the incentive scheme of Nirmal Gram Puraskar to encourage the Panchayati Raj Institutions to take up sanitation promotion to achieve open defecation free status.
- The unit cost structure of the construction of individual household latrines has been increased to Rs. 2500 (Rs. 3000 for hilly and difficult areas) from the earlier Rs. 1500.
- Community contributions for construction of school and Anganwadi toilets have been removed and Centre and State share is fixed at 70:30.